

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is a system and method of precisely locating a football on a football field in order to determine whether a first down has been achieved. The invention employs an optical distance measuring device that communicates via a wireless transceiver with a portable display device controlled by an on-field official. The portable display device is equipped with an operator interface used to request measurements of the ball location and is suitably programmed to calculate whether a first down has been achieved based on first and second ball location data points.

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